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Inside Track

Progressives Dreaming of a Warren/Sanders Ticket



AP Images

With former Vice President Joe Biden still maintaining a lead in many polls, some of the more “progressive” elements of the Democratic Party are dreaming of a scenario in which some combination of Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), two icons of the far left in America, would join forces to run as president and vice president against Donald Trump in November.

A *New York Times* piece from December 16 posits that the two far-left candidates are cancelling each other out among the more progressive wing of the party, which could lead the party to settle for a more centrist option such as Biden. Some Democrats are urging them to form a coalition, where either Sanders or Warren drops out and endorses the other in exchange for a vice presidential nod. Some are urging both to stay in the race all the way to the end so that they might, essentially, pool their collective delegates and lay claim to the Democratic nomination.

The potential combination has some far-left Democrats salivating and seeing a new Democratic Party coming out of the union. “The two of them could usher in a progressive era for the next decade,” said Representative Ro Khanna (D-Calif.). Khanna went on to compare the possible merger to that of Bill Clinton and Al Gore in the 1990s. “[Clinton and Gore] doubled down on a bet for a centrist version of the party. This would be a bet on a progressive vision for the party.”

Representative Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) also hailed the potential progressive dream-team: “I think that would just be the dream of all progressives. When you’re going into a battlefield, you want your best players to be on the field starting. And they are our best.”

If they’re looking to ensure another four years of Donald Trump in the White House, then Warren and Sanders should definitely team up. They should offer up their version of a new socialist America and see what happens.

By James Murphy



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Illegals in N.Y. Queue for Driver's Licenses With No Fear of Deportation

Illegal aliens in New York are now waiting in long lines for driver's licenses *without any fear of deportation*.

The illegal-alien driver's-license outrage was addressed in court, but as the *The Hill* reported December 13, "A federal judge on Friday denied a challenge to a law that will allow New York to give driver's licenses to [illegal aliens]."

"The law, which is set to go into effect next week, was facing its second challenge in court, the *Rochester Democrat & Chronicle* reports," the site continues. "U.S. District Judge Gary Sharpe ruled against Rensselaer County Clerk Frank Merola, saying he lacked the legal capacity to bring the lawsuit against the state over the new law."

"Three other lawsuits are either pending or are on appeal," the *National Sentinel* added December 17, "but NY state officials implemented it on Monday [December 16] anyway because no court had issued a stay until the matter can be settled once and for all."

The *Sentinel* also asks, "Why aren't federal immigration officials here rounding people up?" and then elaborates: "New York jurisdictions may claim to be 'sanctuaries' for illegal aliens, forbidding their own local law enforcement officers from cooperating with federal immigration officials or helping enforce federal immigration laws. Got it. But why the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency wasn't at these licensing facilities in force is a mystery."

The bottom line is that while Democrats proclaimed when impeaching Trump that "no one is above the law," everyone is above the law except those they want below the law. Fox News host Tucker Carlson expressed this reality well in a June 2019 segment, mentioning, among other examples, that our country's "20 million illegal aliens" are certainly above the law.

Of course, the creation of frivolous laws, ignoring of important ones, and selective application of all law undermines respect for law — as does favoring foreigners over citizens.

By Selwyn Duke

U.S. Officials Lied About War in Afghanistan

John Sopko, head of the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), which conducted hundreds of interviews to diagnose policy failures in Afghanistan, told the *Washington Post* that documents uncovered during the interviews demonstrate that "the American people have constantly been lied to" about Afghanistan. The *Post* released the results of its findings on December 9.

The *Post* obtained more than 2,000 pages of documents through a Freedom of Information Act request made three years ago in order to obtain access to the documents, which were part of a lengthy government report entitled *Lessons Learned* that studied "the root failures" of the war effort.

Those compiling the report interviewed more than 600 people who played a direct role in the war during the Bush, Obama, and Trump administrations, including a number of foreigners associated with NATO and 20 Afghan officials. The interviews began in 2014, according to the *Post*, and seven parts of the report have been published since 2016.



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Among those cited in the interviews was Douglas Lute, a three-star Army general who was the White House's Afghan war czar during the Bush and Obama administrations. Lute told government interviewers in 2015: "We were devoid of a fundamental understanding of Afghanistan — we didn't know what we were doing."

"If [only] the American people knew the magnitude of this dysfunction ... 2,400 lives lost," Lute said, blaming the deaths of American troops on bureaucratic breakdowns among Congress, the Pentagon, and the State Department.

In an interview with Martha MacCallum of Fox News, Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) provided his take on the issue. "I think our young men and women that we send to war, our best and our brightest, they deserve better," Paul told MacCallum. "They deserve an open airing of what is the mission. I've been saying for several years now that I can't meet a general anywhere who can tell me really what is the mission we're trying to accomplish in Afghanistan."

By Warren Mass

Court Strikes Down Part of ObamaCare, Casting Doubt on Law's Future

A federal appeals court on December 18 shot down the now-neutralized ObamaCare requirement compelling Americans to have health insurance.

While the ruling gave a final deathblow to the "individual mandate," it did not weigh in on the overall constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act, meaning the rest of the healthcare law remains in effect for now.

The 2-1 ruling came from a panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans. The panel concurred with a 2018 finding by Texas-based U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor, who said the individual mandate was rendered unconstitutional when Congress set the tax on Americans without health insurance to zero back in 2017.

That year, 20 attorneys general from across the country filed a suit in O'Connor's court claiming that ObamaCare lost validity when Republicans essentially voided the law's enforceability by reducing the penalty to zero via their tax reform bill.

The unconstitutionality of the individual mandate made the entire Affordable Care Act unconstitutional, O'Connor said, though his ruling was appealed and the healthcare law was allowed to remain in effect throughout the appeals process.

The court on December 18 did not reach a decision on the question of how much of ObamaCare goes down with the insurance mandate, but sent the case back to O'Connor with the guidance that he must be specific as to which parts of the Affordable Care Act cannot be separated from the mandate. The judge must also take into account Congress' decision to leave the rest of the law unchanged when it set the penalty to zero.

President Trump lauded the appeals court's decision in a December 18 statement, calling it a "win for all Americans," while House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) called the ruling a "chilling threat" to those who depend on ObamaCare.



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Congress previously failed to repeal the Affordable Care Act in its entirety. With the fate of its constitutionality now at stake, Barack Obama's signature legislative achievement is likely to become a campaign issue going into the 2020 presidential election.

By Luis Miguel



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